

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/806,424
Atty Docket No.: Q80611

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (canceled).

Claim 2. (currently amended): A method for producing an inkjet ink comprising desalting and purifying a betaine compound and then ~~using~~preparing an ink containing the betaine compound ~~for the preparation of the ink.~~

Claim 3. (currently amended): A method for producing an inkjet ink comprising desalting and purifying an ink stock solution containing a betaine compound and then ~~using~~preparing an ink containing the ink stock solution for the preparation of the ink.

Claim 4. (original): An inkjet ink produced by the method as claimed in Claim 2.

Claim 5. (original): An inkjet ink produced by the method as claimed in Claim 3.

Claim 6. (previously presented): An inkjet ink comprising a dye, water, a water-soluble organic solvent and a betaine compound, wherein the total weight of inorganic ions in the ink is 2 wt% or less based on the ink, which is produced by the method as claimed in Claim 2.

Claim 7. (previously presented): An inkjet ink comprising a dye, water, a water-soluble organic solvent and a betaine compound, wherein the total weight of inorganic ions in the ink is 2 wt% or less based on the ink, which is produced by the method as claimed in Claim 3.

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Claim 8. (previously presented): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the betaine compound is a compound having both a cationic site and an anionic site in the molecule thereof.

Claim 9. (original): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the cationic site is at least one member selected from an aminic nitrogen atom, a nitrogen atom of a heteroaromatic ring, a boron atom having 4 bonds to carbon and a phosphoric atom and the anionic site is at least one member selected from a hydroxyl group, a thio group, a sulfonamido group, a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, an imido group, a phosphoric acid group and a phosphonic acid group.

Claim 10. (previously presented): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the dye is a dye having an oxidation potential more positive than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

Claim 11. (previously presented): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the dye is a dye having at least two heterocyclic groups.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 11, wherein at least one of the heterocyclic groups is a 5-membered or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom and a sulfur atom.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the heterocyclic group contains at least one heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of pyridine, thiophene, thiazole, benzothiazole, benzoxazole and furan.

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Claim 14. (currently amended): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine dye having at least one group selected from the group consisting of ~~SO~~, ~~SO₂~~, ~~CO~~, ~~CO₂~~, ~~SO~~, ~~SO₂~~, ~~CO~~, ~~CO₂~~.

Claim 15. (previously presented): An inkjet ink set comprising the inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 4.

Claim 16. (previously presented): An inkjet recording method comprising recording an image by an inkjet printer using the ink as claimed in Claim 4.